

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 011106

62

ORIGIN STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 STRE-00 TRSE-00 COME-00

EB-07 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 FEA-01 AGR-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

TAR-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /104 R

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COMMERCE:DSCHLECHTY(INFO)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

INFO USDEL MTN GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:ETRD, GATT

SUBJECT: TROPICAL PRODUCTS, GSP AND TABACCO

REF : MTN GENEVA 201

1. EC PROPOSAL TO EXPAND TOBACCO GSP SCHEME AS PER REFTEL
B AND INCLUDE AS PART OF ECS TROPICAL PRODUCTS OFFER LIST
PRESENTS SERIOUS REPEAT SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR U.S.

2. TOBACCO AGRICULTURAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ATAC)
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PAGE 02 STATE 011106

MEMBERS IN LETTER TO AMBASSADOR DENT URGED "THAT THE U.S.

SHOULD CONSISTENTLY OPPOSE THE ECS GSP TARIFF QUOTA FOR FLUE-CURED TOBACCO AND REQUEST THAT IT BE PHASED OUT." LETTER FURTHER EXPRESSED FEAR THAT EC MIGHT CONSIDER ENLARGING ITS GSP TARIFF QUOTA AND REDUCING FURTHER THE PREFERENTIAL DUTY RATE FOR IMPORTS WITHIN THE QUOTA. THEY SEE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE EC, IN THE ABSENCE OF OPPOSITION, MAY EVENTUALLY REMOVE THE QUOTA LIMITATION, FURTHER REDUCE THE GSP DUTY RATE, AND PERHAPS EXTEND GENERALIZED PREFERENCE TO OTHER TOBACCOS IN ADDITION TO FLUE-CURED, THEREBY AMPLIFYING THE DISCRIMINATORY IMPACT OF EC TOBACCO PREFERENCES ON U.S. TOBACCO EXPORTS.

3. AT NOVEMBER 18-19 MEETING EC IN RECOGNITION OF THIS TYPE OF PROBLEM AGREED TO THE IMPORTANCE OF PRIOR CONSULTATION AND CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE U.S. BEFORE UNDERTAKING ACTIONS WHICH COULD RESULT IN CONFLICTING POSITIONS. U.S. SPECIFICALLY WARNED AGAINST THE EXTENSION IN TROPICAL PRODUCTS OF GSP BENEFITS ON LDC EXPORTS WHICH COMPETE WITH U.S. EXPORTS, E.G., TOBACCO AND CITRUS. WE APPRECIATE FACT THAT TRAN INFORMED US OF COMMISSION PROPOSALS FOR TROPICAL PRODUCTS.

4. MISSION SHOULD APPROACH EC COMMISSION BEFORE JANUARY 16 MEETING OF 113 COMMITTEE TO URGE IN STRONGEST TERMS THAT EC NOT PROCEED WITH ITS PROPOSAL TO IMPROVE GSP TREATMENT FOR TOBACCO. FURTHERMORE, WHILE EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR ADVANCED INFORMATION, YOU SHOULD INDICATE THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO CONSULT WITH EC ON THIS MATTER. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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